

THE TOWN OF MERRIMAC

S6911 State Highway 113 - P.O. Box 115
Merrimac, WI 53561

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION July 18, 2012

Present were Richard Grant, Chair; John Gaedke, Dan Purcell, Eva Spear, and Doug Hill. Also present was Tim McCumber, Town Administrator and Brandy Howe, representing Town Planner Mike Slavney.

Grant called the commission meeting to order; McCumber certified compliance with the open meetings law. The commission considered the minutes of the June 20, 2012, motion by Grant to approve with an addition to the minutes, second by Gaedke. Motion passed. There was no **OLD BUSINESS**. Under **NEW BUSINESS**, the commission Discussed possible amendments the Town of Merrimac Zoning Ordinance conditional uses in the Single Family Residential District as they relate to the housing of chickens and other livestock in the Residential District; regulations for ham/shortwave radio antennas; outdoor furnaces; small solar and wind energy systems; and communications towers. Casey Csatari appeared before the commission and noted that the recommendation was to go to 1.5 acres and she would like to recommend at least 1.25 acres. McCumber summarized the ordinance proposals and recommends that whatever size of a lot the commission selects, it should address parcels up to 5 acres and the 5 acres plus should remain the same. He also thought it would be a good idea for a property owner to sign off whenever a renter of a property makes the application. The other ordinances are presented as the questions were raised and come down to whether or not the commission wants to regulate the other matters. Grant would like to see the commission stay with the matter of chickens. Grant feels a number of the proposals duplicate other regulations. Hill and Spear agreed with Grant. The discussion was to change 1.5 acres to 1.15 acres, to remove guinea hens, and to consider only chickens, no other animals. The other proposed additions were struck. Motion to accept the proposed changes for public hearing by Grant. Second by Hill. Motion passed. Grant asked the Scott's when they could remove the other animals from the property. They asked for a week and Grant asked that it not exceed 60 days.

Under **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**, McCumber reported that there have been 29 permits totaling \$333,760. A new house is in the works and will be the first of the year. McCumber also reported that the Department of Natural Resources had approved the Army's Alternative Feasibility Study and that the Army is going to restructure the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) after the town raised questions about the current makeup of the RAB.

Motion to adjourn by Hill, second by Gaedke. Motion passed.